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Center for Smart Agriculture

Organic Farming



Module 1: Introduction to Organic farming

Session 2: Developing organic farm



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- Developing organic farm As organic management is an integrated approach, manipulation and adoption of one or few steps may not yield significant results.
- For optimization of productivity all the essential components need to be developed in a systematic manner



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The Conversion of soil to organic includes

- (i) Habitat development
- (ii) on-farm facilities for input production
- (iii) cropping sequence and combination planning
- (iv) 3-4 year rotation plan
- (vi) growing of crops which are suitable to the region, soil and climate.

The Conversion of soil to organic also includes

- banning of chemicals,
- Low input alternative
- High input alternatives.



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The first steps to converting to conventional farm to organic

- The first step is to visit organic farms and see how others are doing it.
- Gathering information by Talking to organic farmers and growers, attend workshops and conferences and talk to marketing outlets, such as organic millers and the various cooperatives and wholesalers to assess the potential market for the produce.
- Contact with organic certification bodies and find out what conversion grants are available.



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Managing the conversion period

- Management during conversion is dependent on the previous enterprise mix, the cropping, livestock and infrastructure and intensity of production.
- Conversion is straightforward for many farms, but others will need substantial changes and it is important to know what they might be before deciding to convert.
- An adviser will also be able to help in the all-important financial budgeting during the conversion period and beyond.



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A time of change

- Converting from conventional to organic farming is a time of change for both the land and the farmer. The conversion period may require specific management actions which will not be needed once the organic system is established.
- The most important thing is to establish a farming system that will work in the long term; this might need changes in soil management, crop rotation, livestock and infrastructure.



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A conversion plan should include:

- An appraisal of the farm, its resources and objectives
- A plan of the farm system: soil and manure management, crop rotation, livestock type, numbers and management
- A review of the labour requirements, infrastructure and equipment needs and a marketing plan
- Financial budgeting for the conversion period and for the established organic farm
- A conversion timescale, which will be at least 2 years in a single step conversion, or may be over several years with a larger farm where a staged conversion will give time to address technical issues and spread the investment costs.



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THANK YOU